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THE KABUL TIMES

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VOL. VII, NO. 239

KABUL, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1969 (JADI 17, 1347 S.H.)

SD

PRICE AFS. 4

DIRECT TELEPHONE LINK TO BE SET UP WITH IRAN

By A Staff Writer

KABUL, Jan. 7.—Afghanistan and Iran are to have direct telephone links from now on at a highly reduced rate, a Communications Ministry spokesman told the Kabul Times this morning.

Previously telephone communications between the two countries was possible only via Europe, a unit call costing nearly Af. 700 (a unit call is conversation over the telephone for three minutes only).

With the direct arrangements the rate has been reduced to Af. 170 per unit call. Until the completion of the carrier system on the Iranian side it has been decided that a bi-weekly radio telephone circuit should be opened between Kabul and Tehran.

Under the new arrangements two

new telephone circuits will also be operating between Meshad and Herat, the spokesman said. He added that the reduced rates are expected to encourage callers to make frequent use of the available facilities.

He explained that rates were reduced sometime ago when direct telephone links were opened between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This he said produced the desired results.

The talks on the opening of direct telecommunications links between the two countries were attended on the Afghan side by the deputy minister of communications Azizullah Zayer, president of telephone and Telegraph Department, Mohammad Naseem Alawi, Ghulam Mohammad Sikandar and other ministry officials.

On the Iranian were Ahmad Molamidi, director general of wireless and broadcasting; Mohammad Taqi Mohammadi, director general of telephone and Azizullah Khakzadi, director general of provincial lines and networks.

The Iranian delegation is now on a tour of Kandahar and Herat provinces and is due back later this week. The agreement on the establishment of the new telecommunications links is to be signed Saturday.

Asghar Khan joins strategy talk against Ayub

KARACHI, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—Air Marshal Asghar Khan, tipped as a possible presidential candidate in elections due in 1970, flew suddenly to Dacca, East Pakistan, Monday to join strategy talks among opposition party leaders.

Heads of eight of the ten parties opposing President Ayub Khan's government are meeting in Dacca to try to form a United Front to oust President Ayub's 10-year-old regime.

They are also deciding whether or not to boycott the presidential elections in favour of simply carrying on the anti-Ayub agitation which has rocked Pakistan since early in November.

Reports from Dacca indicate there has been some progress towards unity. But two leftist parties continue to stay away from the Dacca discussions.

They are 83-year-old Maulana Abdul Bhashani of the left-wing National Awami Party and the left-leaning Pakistan Peoples Party of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who has been in detention since November, 1968.

Bhutto's party nine days ago offered him as presidential candidate—a move which brought stony disapproval from the other opposition parties.

Air Marshal Khan, 47, a former commander-in-chief of the Pakistan Air Force, said of his possible candidacy yesterday: "I have no lust for power."

Nixon will end U.S. draft system

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Secretary of defence-designate Melvin R. Laird voiced hope Monday that a settlement can be reached in Vietnam, so that American troop withdrawals can begin in about six to 12 months.

He made the statement at a press conference at which he announced, on behalf of President-elect Nixon, three nominations for Pentagon posts: Stanley R. Resor to remain as secretary of the army; Dr. Robert C. Seamans to be the new secretary of the Air Force, and Rhode Island Governor John H. Chafee as secretary of the Navy.

The nominations are subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Nixon administration will take office on January 20.

U.S. troop withdrawals from Vietnam have been discussed for the past two years. Laird said in noting that South Vietnamese military forces have been enlarged and strengthened. He pointed out that the subject of troop withdrawals was brought up at the Paris meetings with North Vietnamese representatives by U.S. ambassador Averell Harriman.

After the war ends in Vietnam, the goal of the Nixon administration will be an all-volunteer army and an end to the draft (selective service) system by which American civilians are chosen for military duty, Laird said.

800 attend funeral of Trygve Lie

OSLO, Jan. 7. (DPA).—Norwegian and foreign dignitaries attended Monday's funeral service for the first UN Secretary General Trygve Lie, who died a week ago at the age of 72.

Among the about 800 mourners were King Olav the fifth of Norway, members of the royal family, Norwegian cabinet members headed by Prime Minister Per Borten, outgoing U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey and assistant UN Secretary General Ralph Bunche.

The bishop of Oslo, Fridtjof Birkele celebrated the funeral service in the beautiful flower-decorated trinity church.

He praised the late Trygve Lie for his courageous fight for Norway's freedom during World War II and his struggle for justice and peace all over the world as UN Secretary General.

The Norwegian Prime Minister laid down a wreath at the coffin wrapped in the Norwegian flag.

U.S. blames Hanoi for holding up talk's progress

PARIS, Jan. 7. (AFP).—An American spokesman yesterday bitterly blamed the North Vietnamese for delay in getting the peace talks started here after the Hanoi delegation had apparently rejected a series of American compromise proposals on procedural issues.

Commenting a few hours after a North Vietnamese press conference at which American plans for a divided conference table were described as "truly comical", the spokesman declared: "We note with deep regret that the North Vietnamese delegation

There's a great potential for building up a moderate fishing industry in Afghanistan at least for home consumption. The many rivers all over the country teem with fresh water fish. Above a fisherman in Ghaghuri district of Neem-roz province drags in a net full of fish with almost no effort at all. In some rivers fish are so abundant they take the sport out of fishing.

Lebanon, Israel hold direct talks, 'no negotiations'

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7. (AFP).—A Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that direct talks between Israel and Lebanon had taken place in the last few days.

He said representatives of the two countries met "to clarify problems relating to the ceasefire between the two countries". The meeting was on the frontier between the two countries.

The statement followed denials by Lebanon. But Lebanon did say that military officials from the two countries attended a UN armistice commission meeting about frontier violation allegations covering the past few days.

Lebanese officials stressed that there was "no sort of negotiation" and that the meeting was purely "technical".

Press reports yesterday quoted Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban as saying Israel had contacted Lebanon through diplomatic channels to draw its attention to the seriousness of the situation in the border area.

In Beirut the cabinet postponed consideration of a bill introducing compulsory military service for 12 months for all men over 18.

Critics of the proposal, which is urged by Beirut students, have pointed out that it could have no effect on Lebanese defence facilities for many months or years, quite apart from the high cost of the scheme.

Egypt reported willing to accept borders for pullout

BELGRADE, Jan. 7. (AFP).—Egypt is ready to recognise Israel's frontiers if she withdraws from occupied territory, but would not open diplomatic relations with Jerusalem, Arab diplomatic sources said here yesterday on the eve of a visit by Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad.

The same sources dismissed as "unrealistic" a Yugoslav newspaper's proposal for a "federal Palestine in which Arabs and Israelis would live on an equal footing."

Such a status of equality was "the only basis for a durable solution acceptable to everybody," political commentator Josip Djerdja claimed.

Riad, who was to arrive here late this morning and was to begin talks straight away with the acting foreign minister is expected to insist that any solution must be based on the United Nations Security Council resolution of November 1967.

Riad will deliver a message from President Gamal Abdel Nasser to President Josip Broz Tito on Wednesday and on Thursday he will fly back to Cairo.

Lebanese PM hands in resignation

BEIRUT, Jan. 7. (AFP).—Lebanese Premier Dr. Abdullah Yafi last night handed in his resignation to President Charles Helou, informed sources here reported. An official announcement was not expected, however, before Tuesday morning.

The cabinet, which was to have met here yesterday to examine a bill on obligatory military service, had postponed its meeting until Wednesday.

Talks have been going on yesterday at the presidential palace however, where President Helou received Dr. Yafi and Defense and Foreign Affairs Minister Hussein Oueini.

The talks centred on the question of increasing the four-member Lebanese cabinet, which appeared to have become necessary to establish a national union government, especially because of ministerial differences, on conscription.

Meanwhile Yugoslavia has been watching developments in the Middle East closely and contacts between Belgrade and Cairo are almost daily.

Press comment here several critics what is seen as Israeli intransigence.

A commentator in the Belgrade paper Politika claimed that the Israeli government was placing obstacles on the way of peace efforts and it was necessary to bring pressure to bear on Tel Aviv.

The Security Council resolution on the Beirut airport raid had not specified sanctions against Israel, the paper said.

But unanimity among the four great powers (the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France) was not the result of hazard.

"It is the fruit of comprehensive—powerfully aided by Israel herself—that lasting stability in the Near East can only be based on a political solution and that any delay brings new and unforeseeable dangers," Politika declared.

Sirhan Sirhan trial begins under tight security measures

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7. (AFP).—Tight security precautions will be in force when Sirhan Sirhan, accused of the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, goes on trial here today.

The 24-year-old American of Jordanian origin will be defended by Russell Parsons, 69, Grant Cooper, 65, and Emile Zola Bernan, 65, a New York lawyer of Jewish origin.

Parsons is a veteran of the American law courts who has handled almost 5000 cases.

The prosecution will probably be handled by David Fitts, 46, the deputy prosecutor of Los Angeles.

The case will be heard by Judge Herbert Walker, 69, whose condemnation of Caryl Chessman to the gas chamber in 1948 introduced a 10-year legal battle.

The case which may last until the end of March, will be judge Walker's last big trial before his retirement in July.

Between 15 days and a month are expected to be taken up with the selection of a jury, which is expected to present special difficulties in California where jury members have to be shown to have no prejudices. This will be a problem after press and television coverage of the assassination.

The defence and the prosecution in the case have already disclosed that they will be calling about 200 witnesses between them.

So far the defence has given no indication as to its plans at the trial, but it is expected to present a plea of "not guilty".

Since his arrest, Sirhan has been held on the 13th floor of the Los Angeles law courts building, five

Etemadi expresses regrets over Boeing 727 crash

KABUL, Jan. 7. (Bakhtar).—Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi after hearing a report at the cabinet meeting yesterday from Afghan Air Authority President Sardar Sultan Mahmud Ghazi on the crash of the Afghan Airlines Boeing 727 in London expressed his regret and said:

"At this sad moment we consider ourselves partners in the sorrow which have fallen upon the families whose members have died in the incident."

He also expressed the regrets of the government of Afghanistan to the government of the nationals whose their lives were lost in the crash.

People's China drafts new constitution

PARIS, Jan. 7. (DPA).—A new draft constitution of the Communist Party of China calls Mao Tse Tung the political heir of Marx and Lenin and asserts that the Chinese leader has brought Communism to "a brand new stage", the International Herald Tribune reported yesterday.

Appended to the draft constitution, which is being circulated for study among Chinese provinces, is a report by a "special panel" which investigated the political crimes of Liu Shao-Chi, the disgraced Chinese chief of state who was accused in 1966 of long opposing party Chairman Mao leftist policies.

The report said that evidence proved Liu was a traitor but indicated he would not be executed. "Death is too good for him," the draft said, according to one unofficial translation.

The draft of a new constitution reached Hong Kong recently. It is believed to be identical with a document the Chinese press has indicated is under study by Chinese leaders and which may be adopted at the ninth congress of the Chinese party expected to be held this year. It will replace the 1956 constitution.

Rio de Janeiro plagued by machinegun gang

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 7. (AP).—Police are at a loss for clues to the identity or whereabouts of a machine-gun toting gang operating in the Rio area.

But they believe it is led by a leader of the Chinese wing of the outlawed Brazilian Communist Party.

The gang has already claimed its first victim and an all-out police effort has been mounted to capture its members—but so far the dragnet has turned up nothing.

Occasional comments made by gang members during their well-planned lightning raids have convinced police their objective is to collect funds and weapons for an armed struggle to overthrow the government.

Ironically the first victim was a 25-year-old watchman whose only immediate concern in life appeared to be raising enough money to visit his ailing mother in northern Brazil.

The guard, Iao Araujo de Sousa, resisted members of the gang who wanted to hold up a gasoline station Sunday.

The guard was killed by a burst of machinegun fire.

The machinegun gang, as the local press is calling it, struck twice last week and apparently collected a small amount of money scores of dynamite sticks and a handful of weapons.



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Food For Thought

Habit is thus the enormous fly wheel of society, its most precious conservative agent. It alone is what keeps us all within the bounds of ordinance.

William James

Solving the food problem

This week we had two news items involving food and agricultural assistance to Afghanistan. The first came from the WFP who will supply food stuffs worth over two million dollars to students of the provincial boarding schools. The second concerned the FAO who will act as the executing agency for the United Nations Special Fund in surveying the irrigation possibilities of Kunduz and Khanabad areas in northern Afghanistan.

Afghanistan, conscious of the fact that no developmental plans can be implemented or produce the desired effects without young educated men has always laid special emphasis on the development and advancement of modern education. A considerable portion of our yearly budget is devoted to the opening of new schools and to the provision of teaching materials and the training of teachers.

Considering the average income of provincial people, boarding schools are the only practical way of advancing modern education and providing incentive for students to join the teachers training establishment in the provinces. Naturally, with the available budget it would have been hard for the Ministry of Education to provide proper nourishment for the students.

The food items to be given through the WFP as national supplements to the students is highly appreciated by the government and people of Afghanistan but they can at best only

be a temporary solution to an existing problem. It is here that the news about surveying the possibilities of irrigation in Kunduz and Khanabad areas assumes a great deal of importance since it constitutes an attempt to solve the food problem on a permanent basis.

With the completion of the survey it is hoped that practical suggestion for launching irrigation projects will emerge. The problem will then be how to finance and man these projects, which we are sure will be tackled jointly by the Special Fund and the Afghan authorities.

This together with efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to provide chemical fertiliser and popularise better methods of irrigation and cultivation will undoubtedly lead to better land productivity and increasing agricultural output.

The ministry's efforts to promote agriculture throughout the country includes the establishment of a chemical fertiliser factory which will use natural gas available in the north.

WFP's and FAO's contributions can help solve some of the immediate as well as the long range food problems in this country. In expressing appreciation for these humanitarian and worthwhile contributions we hope that the affluent world will, in the future, make generous contributions towards the further strengthening of the financial status of these organisations so that they can provide greater assistance in promoting food production in a hungry world.

HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE

Yesterday's *Heywood* carried an editorial on the Book Publishing Agency which is functioning within the framework of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Two years ago, it said, the agency came into being in order to provide interesting reading material for the public which would divert attention from pornographic and obscene foreign publication which were finding their way into this country.

That is why the establishment of the agency was welcomed in intellectual circles and a number of informative books and novels that were published by the agency were sold quickly.

The agency then undertook a useful and momentous task of publishing the translation of the Holy Koran. This task was bestowed upon the agency partly in order to popularise it and partly in order to strengthen its financial status.

Both these have now been achieved to a considerable extent with the completion of the publication of translated version of the Holy book. The agency is now planning to publish other important religious books.

The editorial, however, expressed concern over the fact that the agency activities in the field of producing interesting and general knowledge books have been rather slowed down recently.

That is why the public is turning once again to imported novels which are generally speaking nothing but cheap trash. Giving reasons for this apparent fall, the editorial said the public are interested in reading material which is connected with the day to day activities and developments in the world.

Such publications have to be obtained from advanced countries, translated and published by the agency. This is something which under the circumstances is rather difficult. The editorial suggested that our embassies and cultural organisations abroad should take it upon themselves to send copies of some of the interesting works that are newly published in advanced countries.

The editorial also suggested that the agency should do its best not to publish books which cannot be sold immediately or cannot be ex-

pected to have much usefulness for an average Afghan reader.

It also urged the Ministry of Information and Culture to employ the agency's services and facilities in publishing some of the best works which are included in annual book prizes.

This way the agency will be functioning at full capacity while some of the interesting works will be made available to the public which would otherwise remain with their authors, since they cannot afford to publish their works at their own expense.

Yesterday's *Anis* in an editorial welcomed the establishment of a Women's Society in Sheberghan, Jozjan province.

The editorial praised the services

rendered by the parent body, the women society of Kabul, in the advancement of education among adult women, encouraging them to promote handicraft such as needle works, child care and home economics and social and welfare activities.

The Women's Society has also succeeded in establishing branches in various provinces, the latest being the one in Jozjan. The provincial branches of the society have a great task in front of them for guiding women in the countryside to become better mothers and wives.

The editorial said members of this organisation can do good service by their own exemplary behaviour at home and before the public.

World Press

The big powers have "surprisingly limited capacity" to impose a peace settlement in the Middle East, Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban said in an interview published Sunday by *Time* magazine.

Eban also questioned whether the world really understood Israel's position and suggested that it did the whole public gallery should have burst into laughter at the United Nations when Israel was condemned as an alleged aggressor by the Soviet Union, "which invaded Czechoslovakia".

Eban denied that his country's damaging commando raid on Beirut's international airport represented retaliation because:

"We have no policy of retaliation. We have a policy of survival. If retaliation helps survival, we are for it. If someone could prove we could survive by giving Arab violence a free reign, then we would do so. But nobody has proved this".

Answering correspondent John Shaw's question about talk of an imposed settlement, Eban said:

"A settlement can only grow from within the region, we believe. Powers outside this region have surprisingly little capacity to make the states here act against when they consider to be their interests. But the big powers can do two things

here. They can force Israel, and the Arabs to turn to each other by excluding the possibility of an imposed settlement. And if the adversaries make an agreement, the big powers can support such a settlement".

Eban made these other points in the interview:

"The international attitude towards Israel cannot be entirely detached from traditional relationship between Jews and non-Jews. There is a stereotype of the Jews as passive victims of others' violence. Israel gives another picture—the picture of the Jews suffering but also resisting. World consciousness has not fully absorbed this change".

Israel hopes for three things from the U.S. (new Nixon administration). First, that the administration will see to it that war is not invited by an imbalance of forces here. This means that Israel's defences should be maintained in the face of the massive Soviet rearming of Egypt. Second, Israel wishes the U.S. to deter the Soviet Union from intervention or intimidation here, and third, we want the new administration to maintain President Johnson's principle that there can be no Israeli withdrawal from the ceasefire lines except to secure and agreed borders".

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Informality is the rule

C'wealth prime ministers' meeting

Twenty-eight independent countries will be represented at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting to be held in London from January 7 to 15 1969.

Taking part will be all the countries which are members of the Commonwealth: Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Ghana, Malaysia, Nigeria, Cyprus, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Zambia, The Gambia, Singapore, Guyana, Botswana, Lesotho, Barbados, Mauritius and Swaziland.

The last five of these countries have attained their independence since the previous prime ministers' meeting in September 1966. The population of the independent Commonwealth Member countries is now well over 500 million.

The meeting in January will be the 17th in a series which began in 1944 and has continued since, at an average of two meetings every three years. Most of the meetings have been concerned mainly with a general review of international political and economic issues and discussions on ways of developing co-operations among member countries.

Present-day Prime Ministers' Meetings operate in a much more informal way than the pre-war Imperial Conferences, which they have replaced, and the delegations which attend are relatively small.

The proceedings are private; the exchange of views and information is consequently frank and uninhibited. Moreover, outside the organised programme, there are opportunities for personal contacts at various private meetings which are of great value in promoting closer understanding and friendship between Commonwealth leaders.

No precise rules of procedure govern the prime ministers' meetings. Certain conventions have, however, grown up over the years. For example, it is understood that the internal affairs of a member country will not be discussed and certainly not without the concurrence of the head of the government of the country concerned (the prime minister

of South Africa did so concur in 1961).

Another convention is that disputes between one Commonwealth country and another will not be discussed except with the consent of the parties to the dispute.

On international affairs, no formal decisions are taken and no attempt is made to formulate specifically Commonwealth policies. However, the exchanges at the meetings enable the governments represented to frame their future policies with regard to the interests of the other Commonwealth Members.

In the words of Lord Normanbrook, former secretary to the British cabinet, who from 1946 to 1962, acted as secretary to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meetings, "the purpose and object of discussion at Commonwealth Meetings has been, not so much to concert a common policy or to plan joint action, but rather to ensure that all Commonwealth governments have a common understanding of what may be at stake and that they appreciate the motives and purposes underlying the policies which each is separately pursuing. The objective has always been to reach the highest measure of understanding, not the lowest measure of agreement".

The January meeting, like the two previous meetings held in Lagos (January 1966) and London (September 1966), is being serviced by the Commonwealth Secretariat. This body, headed by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Arnold Smith, of Canada, was set up to serve the Commonwealth collectively as a result of a decision of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting in June 1965. The Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth Economic Committee and the Commonwealth Education Liaison Unit have been integrated with it.

The Prime Ministers' Meetings represent the political apex of the structure of Commonwealth consultation and cooperation. The continuous nature of cooperation within the Commonwealth is reflected by a number of functional meetings on a Commonwealth basis which have taken place

since the last Prime Ministers' Meeting.

Meetings of Commonwealth Finance Ministers took place in September 1967 and in September 1968. The latter meeting noted that the flow of intra-Commonwealth official economic aid in 1967 had increased by 4 per cent compared with 1966—a remarkable achievement considering the balance of payments difficulties facing various countries. It is noteworthy that in 1967 the total figure for direct official bilateral aid from Commonwealth donor countries to other Commonwealth countries was more than £264 million, while about 17,500 experts and advisers were provided.

The fourth Commonwealth Education Conference held at Lagos, Nigeria, in February-March 1968 reviewed the progress which had been made in the new forms of cooperation in education which had been inaugurated by the first Commonwealth Education Conference held at Oxford in 1960. It was mainly concerned with university and higher education, technical education, education for social and economic development (including adult education and literacy programmes) curriculum development, teacher training and supply and English language teaching. The conference expressed its appreciation of the work of the Centre for Curriculum Renewal and Education Development Overseas (CREDO) which had been founded in 1966 by the British government with assistance from the Nuffield Foundation. Eight new areas for possible action and co-operation were identified by the conference for further study by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

A second Commonwealth Medical Conference was held at Kampala, Uganda, in September 1968. The conference paid special attention to the need to increase local training facilities and to the question of population control (it welcomed the establishment of a population bureau within the British Ministry of Overseas Development to act as a focus for experience and knowledge which could be used in family planning).

(Continued on Page 4)

A slave emancipated

Powell takes back his seat in the House

A tall, handsome strode down the centre aisle of the crowded House of Representatives in Washington and kissed the hand of the first Negro woman elected to Congress.

The controversial New York Democrat returned to the floor of the house Friday for the first time since being ousted two years ago on charges of misusing government funds.

His characteristically flamboyant greeting to 43-year-old Mrs. Shirley Chisholm (Democrat, New York) served to remind southern and Republican congressmen of his civil rights activities and reputation as a lady's man which, at least in part, led to the vote in March, 1967, to ban him from the last session of Congress.

When the new Congress convened on Friday, the house voted—after five hours of debate—to seat Powell on condition that he paid a fine of \$25,000 and lost his 22 years of seniority.

Under the seniority system which determines committee chairmanships, the congressman from New York's Negro Harlem district had become chairman of the important Education and Labour Committee. Now, against him were racially motivated.

He noted, during a news conference after the house vote, that several white congressmen had been accused of various wrong-doings recently, including ties with the Mafia, but no action was taken against them.

His supporters and many observers in the press gallery agreed that if the debonair congressman was white—and perhaps less open in flaunting his enjoyment of expensive cars and the "good life"—he might not have been censured and fined.

Powell appeared somewhat subdued after the vote but still possessed of his famous quick wit. As he finally took his oath of office, he clasped his hands, together and gave the kind of salute used by victorious boxers.

Relatively wealthy from his dual role as a congressman and minister of Harlem's largest Baptist church, Powell shrugged off a question as to whether he felt he was being forced to buy his seat back for \$25,000.

The elegantly dressed Powell leaned back in his chair, puffed his cigar, and replied: "Well, just say I'm an emancipated slave."

(REUTERS)

Edward Kennedy

Democrats' answer to Republican president

Senator Edward Kennedy contends that his election on Friday to a major Senate leadership post is not the start of an attempt to win the presidency of the United States.

He told reporters after his election as assistant senate majority leader that he stood against Senator Russell Long (Democrat, Louisiana) for the post because he felt it was important that the Democrat-controlled Congress carefully scrutinise legislation offered by Republican President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

But by all accounts, the last surviving Kennedy brother has enhanced his already considerable personal reputation by taking on and defeating Senator Long, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and one of the most powerful men in Congress.

If Senator Long had won reelection to the post he held for four years, this would have strengthened the partnership of southern conservatives and Republicans in Congress.

The Kennedy victory, by 31 votes to 26 votes, gave a decidedly liberal and youthful image to the Democratic leadership in the Senate, in contrast to the re-election of 77-year-old representative John W. McCormack as speaker of the House of Representatives.

Kennedy said his success was not a personal victory but had much broader significance. He described the victory as a response to the desire for change which was in evidence throughout the 1968 political campaign and to the Republican administration about to enter the White House.

But Long attributed Kennedy's success to his extreme popularity and a strong political organisation. Kennedy's unprecedented rise from the back benches to assistant majority leader in six years was made possible more by his own hard work and attention to Senate tradition than by the Kennedy charisma.

which never aided the late John F. Kennedy or Robert F. Kennedy in the Senate.

His challenge to Long marked the first time that Ted Kennedy departed from his inconspicuous role as understudy to Senate elders.

Kennedy made it plain that one of the prime reasons he sought the leadership was to act as a counterpoint to the Republican president. Like other members of the Democratic leadership in Congress, he noted the need for bipartisan cooperation. He said he would back all Nixon legislation that attempts to meet the problems of the day or strengthens, improves or changes existing programmes enacted in the Kennedy-Johnson years.

"When the (Nixon) administration is 'not responsive', Kennedy explained: "hopefully we (Democrats) will be able to have a voice in shaping legislation".

(Reuters)

2nd modern dry cleaners starts service

By Our Own Reporter

The dry cleaning business is becoming competitive with the opening of the second modern cleaning service in Barikot, around the Dehmazang area.

The new dry cleaning enterprise, Maestrelli Dry Cleaning, went into operation about a week ago. It is equipped with three sets of dry cleaning machines purchased from West Germany at the cost of DM 50,000.

Maestrelli also has facilities for steam ironing. Another five machines are expected to arrive soon for washing they will cost DM 70,000, said Mohammad Shah Farhad, the manager of Maestrelli.

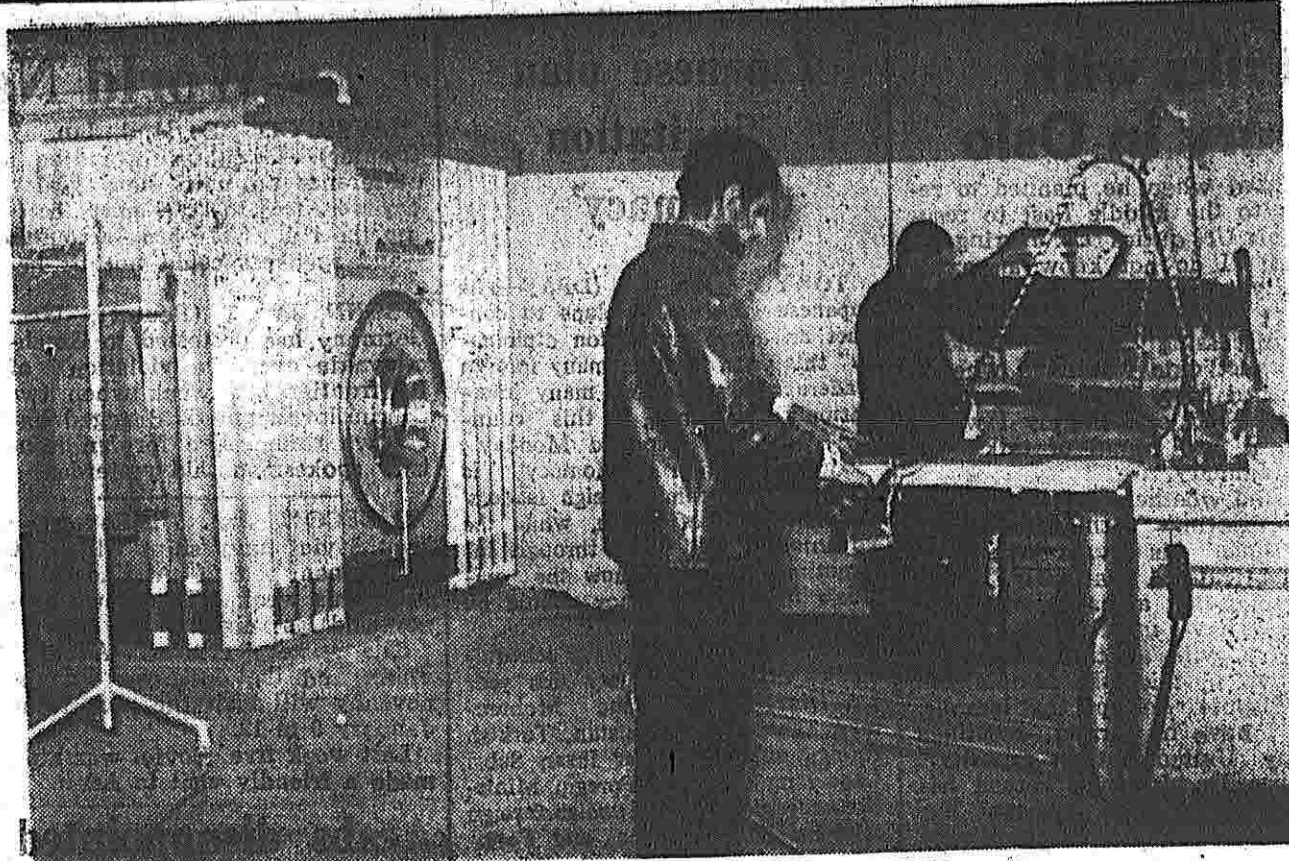
Maestrelli can clean all sort of garments, cotton clothes, wollen pieces, karakul and leather coats and other kinds of material. Prices range from Af. 40 to Af. 100.

With the arrival of the new machines for washing Maestrelli will also accept draperies, bed sheets from hotels and hospitals.

Farhad the manager has received a year's training in equipment installation and has installed all the equipment himself. His wife, a native of West Germany, is also working in the plant as supervisor.

In addition to Farhad and Mrs. Farhad, five other people are working there and Farhad hopes to increase the number of the employees when the five new machines arrive.

At present Maestrelli has a branch in Share Nau, in Maidan Bazaar. When business grows, Farhad said he will also open another branch in the Karte Parwan.



Business Review Of The Week

By A Staff Writer

In the public welfare front, the no. 1 national enemy was always considered to be the hoarder. It could, however just as well be the money lender. Borrowing is always an instrument for construction, and an impetus to productivity. But in this country many a person has been ruined once he took a loan.

Although the credit system in general is inadequate and the industries and business are having a hard time borrowing capital readily and with favourable conditions, here we are more concerned with individual borrowers who simply need money.

A bad crop, expensive medical treatment, an accident, or a natural catastrophe may create a need for borrowing money in any family at any time. And the sad thing is that this is not a rarity.

Where does the needy person or family go? To the money lender. The interest which these money lenders charge is grossly inhuman.

In many instances Af. 50 is charged on Af. 1000 per month. That is a person borrowing Af. 1000 pays an interest of Af. 600 each

year. Thus it is possible for a person who borrows a few thousand afghanis under such terms to lose a great measure of his meagre assets in the course of a few years.

A large number of people from the provinces working as helpers on construction sites and as servants at home are people who are compelled to leave their villages due to inability to pay off the loan and interest for which their land is mortgaged and to which their means of livelihood at home is lost.

The plight of people with fixed incomes, officials and technicians and skilled workers, is not better.

Actually there is a profit to make in extending small loans on short or intermediate terms under much more favourable conditions.

Why the local banks did enter in the picture or why a special loans and savings bank for this purpose was not established is incomprehensible.

The number of people who save, and the amount of money saved by these account holders have increased

substantially during the last few years. Only Da Afghanistan Bank savings account holders alone number over 9,000 and they have savings totalling Af. 123 million.

It is highly probable that more people will save in the banks if they could also readily borrow at the time of need.

The reluctance of the banks stems from their reluctance to take any risks.

These risks, however, can be appreciably lowered with more efficient administration. Although the need for availability of money for short time borrowing is acute there is no need for the government to set up a fund for this purpose.

The money in the savings account is an adequate capital for this purpose. The best possible thing would be for all the banks who run savings account to jointly establish a new concern for this purpose.

Transactions in such concerns are quite different from other specialised banks and efficient operation requires that a special concern should be set up for this purpose.

Peter Baldwin and Afghan industrial development

By James Reynolds

With the passing of Mr. Peter Baldwin on December 30, 1968, Kabul has lost one of its striking personalities. Born on September 30, 1906 in U.S., he had made Kabul his home for the last 15 years.

Before his arrival in India as an Air Force Colonel during the World War II, he had a place in the New York Stock Exchange. His pioneering spirit found India with its diverse problems a more interesting place than the New York Stock Exchange.

At the end of the war, the newly independent India, found Peter Baldwin at the head of the U.S. mission for disposal of war materials.

A new venture Indamer (India/America) started by him with a small borrowed capital, gave him a place in Indian industrial world.

He built up fleet of planes mostly from discarded war stock and by 1960, Indamer planes were flying all over India, the Middle East and Africa.

A number of chartered flights were arranged in these areas for Haj Pilgrims. These flights brought Peter Baldwin to Afghanistan in 1953.

Afghanistan, and particularly Kabul, appealed to him. The Afghan with his sense of hospitality and friendship attracted him. He found a stimulating challenge.

An admirer of Babur the Great, he too thought like the Mughal Emperor that Kabul with its snow clad mountains, was one of the finest spots in the world for peace and happiness.

So, this American pioneer like Babur who said, "I set my foot on the stirrup of resolution", resolved to stay on in Afghanistan and do his bit for the land.

In 1955, he went into partnership with the government and started the Ariana Afghan Airlines. When his share of the Airline was bought by Pan American, he started the Indamer Af-

ghan Industries Inc. In 1958, Indamer invested \$200,000 in Afghanistan.

He went into collaboration with the Helmand Valley Authority, and developed a mechanised farm, the first of its kind in the country, in the Helmand Valley.

Interest in Agricultural development prompted him to persuade the firm of Massey Ferguson, one of the largest producers of Agricultural tractors in the world, to supply 200 tractors on a five year credit basis to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The same five year credit basis was the condition for the distribution of the tractors among Afghan farmers. These tractors were to be serviced for five years. (Continued on Page 4)

Western nations

agree to sell

S. African gold

LONDON, Jan. 7, (AFP). - The London gold market did not react yesterday to reports from Switzerland announcing the forthcoming conclusion of an agreement between South Africa and the main western countries for the marketing of South African gold.

With supply and demand nearly balanced, gold remained at the opening yesterday at its close level on Friday of \$42.05, per fine ounce, which was the highest since June. When demand increased, the price went to \$42.025.

Experts considered that the reports from Switzerland appeared to have been "neutralised" by the recent statement of South African Finance Minister Nicolaas Diederichs that no solution to the question of South African gold sales had yet been worked out.

Inter-Continental plans expansion

In the largest expansion in its 22-year history, Inter-Continental Hotels Corporation is adding nine hotels in seven countries to its worldwide system, John B. Gates, Inter-Continental's Chairman, announced on December 20, 1968.

The new hotels will bring the number of Inter-Continental hotels to 63 in 45 countries.

These nine hotels will add 2,886 rooms to the 11,695 now in operation. An additional 5,049 are under construction, bringing Inter-Continental's total room count to nearly 20,000.

Hotels under contract or construction include three recently announced for London, Zagreb and Helsinki.

For the first time, Inter-Continental will now be represented in London, Paris and Berlin. The corporation already has hotels in such other key European cities as Frankfurt, Vienna and Geneva.

Inter-Continental will participate in the new hotels in association with local interests. Investment and capital raised by the owners of the nine new Inter-Continental hotels approximated the foreign currency equivalent of \$50,000,000.

The new hotels are: Hotel Bristol Kempinski in Berlin, West Germany, with 350 rooms. Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay, India, with 390 rooms.

A new hotel, with 280 rooms, adjacent to the Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay.

Hotel Inter-Continental, Ceylon in Colombo, Ceylon with 250 rooms. Hotel Inter-Continental Hamburg in Colombo, Ceylon with 250 rooms. Hotel Inter-Continental Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo with 250 rooms.

Hotel Delmon Inter-Continental in Manama, Bahrain, with 120 rooms.

Hotel Inter-Continental Paris in France with 530 rooms.

Tehran Inter-Continental Hotel in Iran with 416 rooms.

All hotels are to be constructed with the exception of those in Berlin, Paris, Bahrain and the Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay.

The Paris hotel is the former Continental on the Rue de Rivoli which was purchased in August by Inter-Continental and is undergoing an \$8,000,000 refurbishing before reopening in May 1969.

The hotel in Bahrain opened earlier this year and is being improved to meet first class and international standards.

The hotels in Berlin and Bombay, the best known international hotels in those two cities, will be operated independently but will be franchised as part of the Inter-Continental chain. The Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay being refurbished and enlarged from 310 to 390.

The new Hamburg hotel and Inter-Continental's hotel in London

are being developed in partnership with Lufthansa and BOAC, respectively, under agreements with each of the carriers which call for the creation of 5,000 new hotel rooms in both W. Germany and the United Kingdom.

In addition to BOAC and Lufthansa, Inter-Continental, long associated with Pan American World Airways, has joined in hotel development programmes with many other national carriers, notably Aerolineas Argentinas, Ariana Afghan Airlines, Air Congo, Finnair, Irish International Airlines, Air New Zealand, Air Nicaragua, Pakistan International Airlines and Swissair.

Gates also announced the acquisition of options on sites in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. Inter-Continental anticipates that the financing can be completed, the options exercised and construction started in these two cities next year.

The site in Buenos Aires is being developed in association with Aerolineas Argentinas.

Investments by Inter-Continental in the development of this expansion programme will be financed abroad to comply with the requirements of the United States Department of Commerce with respect to the balance of payments, Gates said.

He emphasised that the development of accommodations will result in a continuous flow of currency to the United States each year in payment for materials and equipment, supplies and services, exported from the United States for the new hotels, and for management fees when the hotels are in operation.

Inter-Continental's policy on design and decoration is to incorporate

the cultural traditions and heritage of the city and country in which the hotel is located so that the hotel will be a recognised and welcome asset to the host community.

Robert Huyot, President of Inter-Continental, said that its management objectives are to achieve in the "front of the house" a personalised standard of service in the European tradition and an international standard of food and beverage service featuring local specialties. In the "back of the house", modern techniques and mechanisation are used to promote efficiency and economy in operation.

"A hotel brings many benefits to the economy of a country, especially a developing country", Gates said. "It stimulates investments, attracts tourism, encourages and contributes to local industry, and provides thousands of jobs both in construction and operation."

In addition to the new hotels announced Dec. 20, Inter-Continental has 13 hotels already under contract or construction in London, Helsinki, Bucharest, Budapest, Ciudad Guayana, Dusseldorf, Kabul, Managua, Manila, Nairobi, Zagreb, Prague and Tahiti.

The Hotel Tahar's Inter-Continental in Tahiti was informally opened on December 2 and the formal opening is scheduled for January 18. The Hotel Inter-Continental Dusseldorf is scheduled for informal opening on February 21 and the formal opening for March 14. The Hotel Inter-Continental Manila will have its informal opening April 1 and its formal opening on April 10. The Hotel Inter-Continental Nairobi will have its informal opening April 15 and its formal opening on May 2, 1969.

The hovercraft-is it a ship, a car or an airplane?

The hovercraft is still in search of a legal identity in Canada.

In the last few years Canadian transport officials have become increasingly perplexed as to whether they should classify it as an aircraft, ship or car.

Federal authorities have already decided that the hovercraft is not an aircraft.

They have proposed an amendment to the federal aeronautics act specifying that an aircraft is anything that flies "except a machine designed to derive support in the atmosphere from reactions against the earth's surface by air expelled from this machine".

The transport minister plans to present a new section of the Canada shipping companies dealing with air-cushion vehicles over water in parliament soon.

There still remains the problem of 'land-bound' hovercrafts, which in Canada are subject to provincial jurisdiction.

The confusion reached almost comic proportions last year when a Canadian firm leased a British hovercraft and shipped it to Montreal as an expo '67 attraction.

The vehicle, which was imported into Canada as an automobile, had to be placed on the civil registry of aircraft and an operator's certificate acquired from the air transport board.

It was inspected and approved by civil aviation officials, by federal steamship inspectors and by the Montreal harbour master. A permit was then obtained from the air transport board and a land mobile radio operator's licence from the transport board. (Continued on Page 4)



Electronics sales may go up this year

Sales in the European electronics markets will reach \$ 7,120 million in 1969, a 10.6 per cent gain over 1968.

This forecast was published this week by "electronics", survey magazine.

In consumer electronics, the largest sector, sales will climb to \$1,900 million, up \$ 100 million from this year's total. The gain will come despite attempts by many governments to discourage consumer buying in 1969.

The over-all electronic communications markets will reach \$ 1,730 million next year, a seven and one

half per cent increase over 1968.

The fastest growing sector of the market will be data-processing equipment, which should spur 19.5 per cent from 1968 to reach \$ 1,660 million next year. American companies dominate this market now, but the European challenge gets stronger each year, according to "electronics".

Country by country, the forecast is as follows:

West Germany will once again set the pace for West European electronics in 1969 with a \$ 1,980 million equipment market, nearly \$ 195 million above this year's estimated total. Consumer products sales will reach \$ 582 million, an eight per cent gain over 1968. The West German market for computers will soar to \$ 465 million in 1969, a gain of 17 per cent, and sales of communications gear will increase by 10 per cent.

Britain's electronics industry can count on a 10 per cent gain, despite an economy still hobbled by trade deficits. The 1969 market is forecast at \$ 1,360 million. The consumer electronics market rose some \$ 40 million to \$ 315 million this year, a sizeable gain in view of government pressures to force down consumer spending. If this spending spree continues in 1969, this market will move up to \$ 330 million. The British communications market will rise seven per cent to \$ 413 million. A 20 per cent increase is forecast for next year's computer market in Britain.

France's electronics industry must count heavily on the private sector for its 1969 growth. The electronics

forecast predicts an electronics market of \$ 1,370 million, a gain of 10 per cent.

The market for data-processing equipment will jump to \$ 325 million, a 22 per cent gain over 1968. "Electronics" survey spots the 1969 French consumer market at \$ 378 million, nine per cent above this estimated level.

In Italy, the electronics market will rise nearly 10 per cent to \$ 712 million next year. Italian consumer equipment makers will watch their 1969 sales drop to \$ 257 million from this year's estimated \$ 264 million, according to this "electronics" survey.

The outlook for Sweden's electronics market is estimated at \$ 338 million, 12.5 per cent above the estimated 1968 total, and this figure may be low if the Swedish buying spree in consumer products continues. A 16 per cent gain is predicted for the Swedish communications market.

In the Netherlands, computers will be the fastest rising sector. According to the "electronics" survey, this market should jump 20 per cent to \$ 68 million. Overall electronics sales in the Netherlands at \$ 365 million will be up \$ 31 million over 1968.

In Switzerland, the survey forecasts a market of \$ 235 million in 1969, an 8.5 per cent.

Belgium should see an overall rise of four per cent.

The Norway forecast is for a 1 per cent gain.

Electrical market in Denmark will see a 12 per cent gain in 1969. (AFP)

Free Exchange Rates At D'Afghanistan Bank

KABUL, Jan. 7.—Following are the exchange rates at the Da Afghanistan Bank expressed per unit in Afghani of foreign currency today January 7.

Buying		Selling	
Af. 72.25 (per U.S. dollars)		Af. 72.75	
Af. 173.40 (per pound sterling)		Af. 174.60	
Af. 1806.25 (per hundred DM)		Af. 1818.75	
Af. 1682.18 (per hundred Swiss franc)		Af. 1643.84	
Af. 1462.39 (per hundred France franc)		Af. 1472.63	

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Airlines

WEDNESDAY

ARIANA AFGHAN AIR-ARRIVALS

FLIGHT	TIME
Kandahar, Kabul FG-105	1100
Khost, Kabul FG-112	1400
Maimana, Mazar, Kabul FG-128	1610

DEPARTURES

Kabul, Mazar, Maimana FG-127	0900
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Kabul, Khost

Kabul, Kandahar FG-111	1130
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Kabul, Kandahar

Bakhtar Afghan Airlines: ARRIVAL	
Nimroz, Bost, Kandahar, Kabul BL-06	1645

DEPARTURE

Kabul, Kandahar, Bost, Nimroz BL-05	0800
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AEROFLOT: ARRIVAL

Moscow, Tashkent, Kabul SU-019	0925
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Pharmacies

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Jami Karte 3
Basir Debori
Nani Hashemi Pule Kheshti
Tel: 24137

Nani Parwan Karte Parwan
Elitague Chamane Hozuri
Tel: 22647

Murtaza Labe Darja
Tel: 20560

Bakhtar Andarbi Watt
Tel: 22619

Marof Share Nau
Jahed Temorshahi Watt
Tel: 20534

Lemmar Moradkhani
Tel: 25669

Zellai Bazzare Shahi
Pashtoonistan Jade Shahi
Karte Char

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Traffic Department —41700
Airport —21283—20872
Fire Department 13
Telephone repair 29
Main post office 24981

Weather

Skies in the northern, north eastern, northwestern and central regions will be cloudy other parts of the country clear. Yesterday the warmest areas were Neemroz and Jalalabad with a high of 13C, 55F. The coldest area was Lal with a low of -20C, -4F with rain and snow. Yesterday North Salang had 6mm rain, 137cm snow, Herat 15cm, Mazare Sharif 3mm, 1cm, Kunduz 3mm 5cm, Fariab 4cm, Shahrak 2mm 86cm, Lal 2mm 30cm and Bamian 6cm. Today Herat, Fariab, Mazar, Bamian, Faizabad and central parts had rain and snow. Today's temperature in Kabul at 11:30 a.m. was 10C, 34F with cloudy skies. Wind speed was recorded in Kabul at 3 knots.

Yesterday's temperatures:	
Kabul	-1 C -9 C 30 F 15 F
Kandahar	9 C 1 C 48 F 15 F
Mazare Sharif	-5 C -8 C 23 F 17 F
Herat	3 C -8 C 37 F 17 F
Kunduz	-4 C -6 C 25 F 21 F
Ghazni	-1 C -11 C 15 F 12 F
Laghman	11 C -1 C 52 F 15 F
Baghlan	-4 C -6 C 25 F 21 F
North Salang	-10 C -11 C 14 F 12 F
Shahrak	-5 C -13 C 23 F -8 F
Bamian	0 C -16 C 32 F 3 F
Fariab	-7 C -19 C 19 F -2 F
Lashkargah	7 C 3 C 44 F 37 F



ARIANA CINEMA:
A 2, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Iranian film THE COQUETTISH GIRL with Shahzad and Manuchehr Wusuqi.

PARK CINEMA:
At 2, 4, 7 and 9 p.m. American colour film dubbed in Farsi.

Jarring to hold talks with UN under secretary in Oslo

MOSCOW, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—Dr. Gunnar Jarring, the United Nations special Middle East peace mediator, said here last night he was flying to Oslo today for talks with UN Deputy Secretary General Dr. Ralphy Bunche.

Dr. Bunche was in Oslo to attend the funeral of Trygve Lie, the first secretary general of the United Nations.

Kenyan Asians seek change in UK immigration

NAIROBI, Jan. 7. (DPA).—The Indian and Pakistani communities in Kenya are looking to London for the start of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference today on which they stake hopes for a revision of the British immigration laws.

Rasik M. Shah, President of the 'Committee of British subjects in Kenya', said he would not leave a single stone unturned to bring about such a revision.

At stake is the fate of some 100,000 Asians in Kenya faced with a government-sponsored 'Africanisation' of the country at the expense of Indians and Pakistanis with British passports.

White Hall last year denied Asian holders of British passports residence in Britain.

India and Pakistan refuse to take on would-be repatriates from East Africa, claiming the fact that they had British passports made them the responsibility of the British Government.

Kasik M. Shah has said that most members of the Indian community in Kenya would rather go to India than to Britain if there was any possibility of earning a living there.

Another possibility would be for them to compensate Indian and Pakistani emigrants from Kenya as had been the case with British Indians whose property was taken over by Africans.

The 5,000 pound sterling would-be emigrants were allowed to take out of Kenya according to the country's currency regulations, were not enough to start afresh somewhere else with a large family, Rasik Shah said.

Britain's mission in Kenya so far has not commented on this suggestion, referring to White Hall.

Baldwin

(Continued from page 3)

Three hovercrafts had to be licensed as airports and a permit obtained from the national harbours to operate a ferry service in Montreal harbour between the waterfront and the Expo islands.

And finally the Quebec government decided that the hovercraft should be classified as a truck and had to pay tax on the diesel fuel that fed its gas-turbine engine.

In Britain Lloyd's register of shipping, the bible of the insurance world, now recognises air-conditioned vehicles as vehicles in their own right.

Jarring to hold talks with UN under secretary in Oslo

Asked when he planned to return to the Middle East to resume his UN duties, Dr. Jarring replied: "I do not know an exact date yet."

"That is one of the things I will be discussing with Dr. Bunche. No exact date was fixed when I returned here. The announcement when I left said merely I would start a new round of talks in mid-January."

Asked whether he had any formal meetings with Soviet officials since his return here, Dr. Jarring replied "naturally, in the course of my ambassadorial duties, I have maintained regular contacts with all the parties concerned in this (the Middle East) dispute, except the Israelis. But I have no formal meetings in my United Nations capacity."

Since Dr. Jarring's return here, the Soviet Government has started an intensive round of new contacts in western and Arab capitals with the apparent aim of working out a new four-power initiative to achieve a Middle East peace settlement on the lines of the November, 1967, security council resolution which set up Dr. Jarring's mission.

Queen Eliz II sails in to trouble again

LONDON, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—The new luxury ocean liner Queen Elizabeth 2 has sailed into another batch of trouble.

Engineers working overtime on the ship's trouble-plagued twin turbines, which cut short a trial cruise last Thursday, said yesterday the damage was far more extensive than originally believed.

One turbine, it was found to have stopped 100 times, and the other five.

A spokesman for the ship's owners said they would not be able to give a completion date for the work when they report to the 29-31 million sterling liner's owners, Cunard, today.

Hovercraft

(Continued from page 3)

ars by a mobile workshop, working from Herat to Kabul, managed by Indians.

It was also responsible for the British sponsored cotton ginning and edible oil plant in Lashkargah.

The raisin processing plant in Kabul in which he holds a 30 per cent interest was another successful project of his.

A Construction Unit and an Automobile Workshop commenced work at the best of its East of Suez zone.

His ventures of his master mind, who believed in "aid, and trade" for developing countries.

Japanese plan 'invitation diplomacy'

TOKYO, Jan. 7. (DPA).—The Japanese government plans to conduct an active "invitation diplomacy" this year, inviting many foreign leaders and sponsoring many international conferences in this country, Jiji-Press reported Monday.

The "invitation diplomacy" is aimed at deepening foreign leaders' understanding of Japan, while the government will study through international meetings how the nation's foreign diplomacy should be steered in the future.

Prominent figures already scheduled to visit this country this year are His Majesty King Mohammad Zahir of Afghanistan, Turkish foreign affairs minister Ihsan Sabri Cagalyangil, Iranian Foreign Minister Ardeshir Zahedi, Swedish foreign minister Poul Hartling, and Foreign Affairs Minister Jacques Rabemananjara of Madagascar.

Besides, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Moroccan King Hassan II are expected to come to this country this year. Furthermore, Secretary-General U Thant of the United Nations, whose visit has been put off since 1967, may visit Japan this year.

International conferences to be held here include the fourth ministerial meeting of the Asian and Pacific Council (ASPAC), the second Japan-Soviet regular ministerial meeting, the seventh regular Japan-France meeting, the fifth regular Japan-West Germany meeting, the seventh meeting of the Japan-United States joint committee on trade and economic affairs, and a Japan-Ceylon ministerial meeting.

COMMONWEALTH

(Continued from page 2)

campaigns overseas. Among other important points which emerged from the discussions were the growth of mutual assistance in medical education between developing countries in the Commonwealth and the extent of aid given by the Commonwealth Foundation, which had granted about £400,000, most of it in the medical field, since its establishment in 1966.

Among the many other events deserving mention were the Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference held in Wellington in February 1968, the third of the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conferences, held in Australia in 1968, the Royal Society's Conference of Commonwealth Scientists at Oxford in 1967 and the Commonwealth Scientific Committee's meetings in Ghana in 1966 and Pakistan in 1968; a meeting in 1967 in Nairobi Commonwealth officials on cooperation in planning, Commonwealth assistance and trade promotion (the first of its kind); the Commonwealth Universities Congress at Sydney in August 1968; a meeting of Commonwealth Chief Justices in Trinidad in May 1968; the Commonwealth Law Conference held in London in July 1968, the completion in March 1967 of the South East Asia Commonwealth Cable (SEA-COM), itself the third and final link in the Commonwealth Comprehensive Telephone Cable Plan, and the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement talks held in London in November/December 1962 at which a settlement was reached on the new provisions for the duration and review of the Agreement and on an unchanged price for sugar for the next three years.

World News In Brief

LIVERPOOL, England, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—Delegates attending a conference on noise here yesterday were told to keep quiet because the hall had bad acoustics—and speakers could not be heard.

BONN, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—West Germany has protested to Czechoslovakia over the violation of its frontier last week when two Czechoslovak guards dragged back two refugees, a foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday.

MOSCOW, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—Two Soviet navy ships will visit the Yemeni port of Al Hudaydan later this week. Tass news agency said last night.

The rocket cruiser Admiral Fokin and the destroyer Vdakhovenny will visit the port from January 9 to 12.

Last week five Soviet warships made a friendly visit to Aden.

Arabs disappointed with FRG response to Israeli raids

CAIRO, Jan. 7. (DPA).—The Arab League yesterday expressed its disappointment over West Germany's reaction to the Israeli attack on Beirut airport nine days ago.

In a discussion with the head of V. L. German, vestigial mission in Cairo, Dr. Lothar Lahn, league president Dr. Abdel Kalik Hassan said his organisation was disappointed that Bonn merely regretted the Israeli "immoderation" the league disclosed.

The West German government had at the same time conceded to Israel the right to attack a sovereign neighbouring state as a retaliatory measure against the action of individual terrorists, for which the attacked country could not be held responsible.

Such an attitude by West Germany would affect relations with the Arab states.

The West German vestigial mission in a statement on the meeting said that Hassan and Lahn had discussed the political situation in view of the efforts by the four big powers to achieve a political solution to the Middle East crisis.

Lahn would travel to Bonn for further consultations next week.

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7. (AFP).—Israel lost 234 soldiers killed and 785 wounded in clashes with Palestinian commandos from June 12, 1967, (after the six-day-war) to December 31, 1968, an Israeli army spokesman said here.

He said the casualties had been suffered in 1,288 incidents 920 in the Jordanian sector, 166 in the Egyptian sector, 37 in the Syrian, 35 in the Lebanese frontier area and 130 in the Gaza Strip.

PARIS, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—An Israeli embassy spokesman said last night that France has banned all arms supplies to Israel.

The total ban, extending the present embargo on the supply of Mirage Jet planes to Israel, applies also to spare parts.

No official comment was immediately from French government officials.

JAMSHEDPUR, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—The Shah of Iran visited an engineering factory and steel works run by India's mammoth tata group at this northern steel town yesterday.

The Shah goes to the Ranchi industrial complex, about 100 kilometres northwest of here, today while empress Farah visits Agra to see the Taj Mahal and receive an honorary degree at Agra University.

CAIRO, Jan. 7. (DPA).—Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser yesterday had a long talk with Syrian Foreign Minister Mohammad Eid Ashawy in Alexandria on the Middle East crisis and a new Arab summit conference.

Syria is expected to make her attendance at an Arab summit dependent on the Alexandria talks and what transpires at them.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7. (Reuters).—Israel's biggest-ever budget—totaling 7,250 million Israeli pounds (about 934,524,000 sterling)—was presented to the Knesset yesterday.

Finance Minister Zeev Sharef, who presented the budget for 1969-70, said defence spending would absorb three-quarters of all revenue from direct and indirect taxes.

AFGHANISTAN

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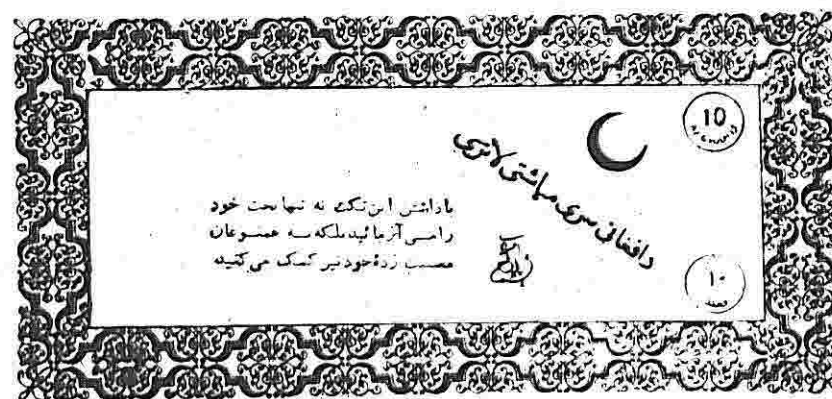
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